curtailed and the farm could not take up various crops in the envisaged areas.

(n) CSF, Aralam in Kerala faced a prolonged strike by workers lasting for about four months and this severely affected the performance of the farm. During this period the planting material died and the harvesting of the crops could not be completed in time.

(o) Most of the farm machinery at the farms of the Corporation has outlived its life and due to non-availability of regular funds caused by delay in sanctioning of loans from the participating Banks under National Seeds Project Phase III augmentation of irrigation facilities and replacement of machinery could not be accomplished.

(p) There has been steps rise in the cost of fertilisers particularly DAP, urea and MOP on account of decontrol and reduction in subsidy which has put extra burden by way of input cost on the Corporation without corresponding increase in the sale price of the produce of the farm.

(q) Apart from the above following factors also contributed to the losses suffered by the Corporation:

(i) Disposal of 35,000 qtls of Wheat and 16000 qtls paddy seeds as grain due to glut in the market.

(ii) The additional liability of Rs. 1.5 crores due to statutory increases in the salary and wages on account of payment of wage arrears to the employees who opted for the industrial scales.

(iii) The additional interest liability of Rs. 23.00 lakhs on account of cash credit restrictions.

(iv) There was increase in the cost of inputs such as fertilisers, pesticides, POL, spare parts to the extent of Rs. 80,00 lakhs on account of rise in prices.

Seeking World Bank aid for Agriculture Development

4898. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought World Bank aid for the development of agriculture in the country;

(b) whether World Bank has considered the matter;

(c) if so, the total aid expected to be obtained; and

(d) the details of the development activities proposed to be taken up with the World Bank aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Apart from ongoing projects, the World Bank is, based on discussion with Government of India, taking up comprehensive agricultural development projects as part of its lending strategy in the agriculture sector. Projects for the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are being considered. These projects comprise of an integrated package of activities including crop husbandary, horticulture, animal husbandary, rural roads, development of water resources and agricultural research and training.

These projects are in varying stages of preparation and appraisal. The details of the projects including the amount of the World Bank assistance would be known after the projects are finalised.